



**ZACH KLEIN**  
COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Faith Oltman, 614.965.0159

[FBoltman@columbus.gov](mailto:FBoltman@columbus.gov)

## **City Attorney Klein Urges Action on State Drug Sentencing Bill**

COLUMBUS – Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein called for Ohio Senate action on Senate Bill 3, legislation to improve Ohio’s drug sentencing laws. It was anticipated that the bill would receive committee and floor votes in the Senate this week, but action has since stalled.

“As we continue to do the important work of rethinking our criminal justice system, we have to come up with solutions that address the root causes of crime,” said Klein. “Many of those charged with low-level drug possession are battling addiction. They need treatment and rehabilitation – not incarceration and felony convictions that will be a barrier to employment and housing the rest of their lives. The Ohio Senate must pass SB 3 to bring about real reform and provide opportunities for Ohioans to improve their lives.”

Klein, along with Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O’Brien, worked with lawmakers to craft the legislation aimed at helping those charged with low-level (fourth- and fifth-degree felony) drug possession. Klein’s recommendations of downgrading low-level drug possession to a misdemeanor offense, with a presumption toward rehabilitation while maintaining judicial discretion, as well as allowing for the sealing of those same convictions have been incorporated into the bill.

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